

We envision a world where diverse communities of youth and adults feel capable, cared for, and free.



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As I write this, I am overwhelmed by how silent it is in my home, away from all of the wonderful members of The Practice Space community. The Bay Area is still sheltering in place to avoid the spread of COVID-19 and the world is hurting, reeling from the deaths of too many Black men and women. More than ever, it is clear how much people need one another for learning, growing, comfort, camaraderie, fun, and inspiration. While virtual tools are helpful to maintain learning and connection in the interim, they cannot replace in-person energy and presence. As we move forward and adjust, one thing remains true: we need community to face our fears. With the world becoming a more fearful place, it is even more important to make sure people have a chance to laugh and have fun learning and listening to one another. One of our Young Speakers Club members said it best during our last in-person session when he said, "Making friends helped me speak and feel better."

While 2019 feels like a lifetime ago, I am proud of everything we've accomplished. Together with our Board of Directors, we produced a three-year strategic plan that launched at the start of 2020. This plan emphasizes our commitment to increasing access to public speaking education to help foster diverse communities where people can feel empowered to lead and speak up for themselves and others. We wrote six curriculum guides that will help spread inclusive communication practices to schools, educators, and students, especially around storytelling, presentation, advocacy, debate, coaching, and confidence. Our programs expanded to reach over 500 youth and adults from around the Bay Area, including students who have stayed with us since the beginning. Our staff grew to a total of 5, making this work possible. Our events showcased how far our students have come, both as speakers and as leaders. Regardless of age, I am struck by how an increased sense of confidence inspires a hunger to advocate and help people.

I am proud we can help people use their voice for good.

Like everyone, we will need to figure out what this new world means for our work. The context has changed, and with it, people's struggles and needs around speaking and listening will shift. The stress and trauma of feeling so uncertain will require us all to find new ways to heal, and we will work hard to rebuild the sense of community we need to feel human once again.

Onward.



AnnMarie Baines, Executive Director

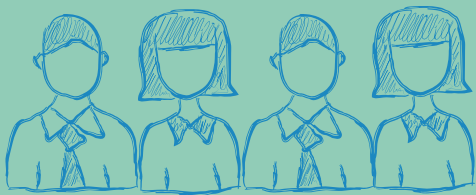


We build confidence and community
through communication skill development to advance inclusion,
develop empathy, and elevate underrepresented voices.

2019 At-a-Glance

524

Students Served



Cities served

Richmond, San Pablo, Pinole, Concord, Hercules, El Cerrito, Albany, Berkeley, Oakland, Vallejo, Davis, Menlo Park, San Ramon, San Jose, Marin, and San Francisco



63%
Youth



37%
Adults



★ Our students are... ★

- Racially diverse and the majority are people of color and/or women and girls.
- Either shy and reluctant to speak at first, or have tons to say and struggle with being concise and organized.
- Caring, kind, and motivated by helping others.
- A little quirky and sometimes misunderstood.
- Humble, deep thinkers who have trouble speaking about themselves; and
- Emerging leaders who advocate and inspire people in their community.

100%

Young Speakers Club students say they improved their communication skills



"Whoa. This place isn't scary at all. I heard public speaking and I thought it would be scary. It's like a house."

—Edward, 10

What We Did

For adults, we...

- **Facilitated workshops to local nonprofits and companies** to work on persuasion, advocacy, and presentation skills.
- **Gave private lessons** to prepare for job interviews, sales pitches, work presentations, and keynotes.

"I just finished up a second interview and it went really well. Regardless of the outcome, I've never felt more confident during an interview before. I'm feeling significantly more hopeful in my job search." - Edward, adult



For youth, we....

- **Grew our Young Speakers Club** to provide sold-out programs to students ages 7-12;
- **Held 4 summer camps for students ages 8-18**, focused on confidence and different forms of expression, from storytelling to debate to comedy and podcasting;
- **Began a second year of our Leaders That Listen programs** in Davis and Vallejo, helping youth advocate in local schools;
- **Launched or supported debate teams** at Kennedy High, El Cerrito High, Pinole Valley High, and Loma Vista Environmental Science Academy;
- **Started our "Expressive Leaders" program** for a select cohort of 13 youth leaders who work with mentors to use their voice to help their community through an action project.

As an organization, we...

- **Held multiple community showcases and events** for people to practice public speaking
- **Created six curriculum guides** on storytelling, presentation, advocacy, debate, coaching, and confidence.
- **Were featured in** Oakland Magazine, Contra Costa Marketplace Magazine, Richmond Standard, and El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce.



"The program made it fun. It made it so that instead of dreading having to speak, I'm excited to share my ideas." - Amber, 16



TPS Staff (left to right): Cristy Kountz, AnnMarie Baines, Caitlin Healy, and Mariana Castro

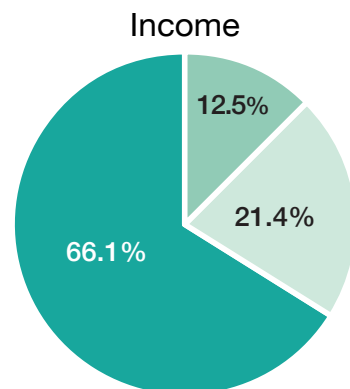
We thank you

This year, we continued to grow our incredible group of staff, volunteers, and Board members. Our volunteers helped us hold events and spread the word to new families and companies. Over 75 percent of our business came from word-of-mouth connections this past year, which is a great indication of the strong community we are building with one another. We are excited to provide programs that inspire people to stick around, attending multiple programs and events and feeling excited enough to tell others to join in.

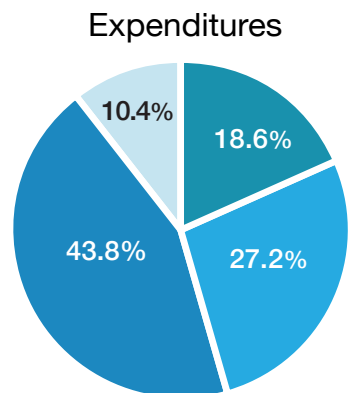
We have also expanded our Board of Directors to include more community leaders who are deeply dedicated to The Practice Space mission. Together, the Board members and staff have been invaluable thought partners who not only steward our organizational direction but are also willing to roll up their sleeves and get the work done. We also welcomed two new members of our core staff and coaching staff! Beyond the program support, we are deeply grateful to the creative design consultants who helped us communicate our identity and reach people who need our services most. This wouldn't be possible without all of you.

This work is also made possible by the individual donors and funders who helped us provide accessible, low-cost programming to local schools and scholarships to students with financial need. We appreciate the many individuals who made financial contributions to sponsor our Expressive Leaders program. Special thanks also go out to grants from the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, The William and Alice Hinckley Fund, the Society for Community Work, and the Chamberlin Foundation Community Giving Initiative.

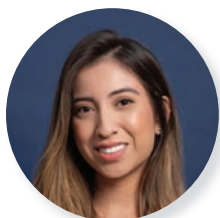
Thank you for your support, love, and undying commitment to your community.



Grants Earned Revenue
Donations



Facilities Professional Services
Events & Supplies Payroll



Nancy Correa
Digital Strategist



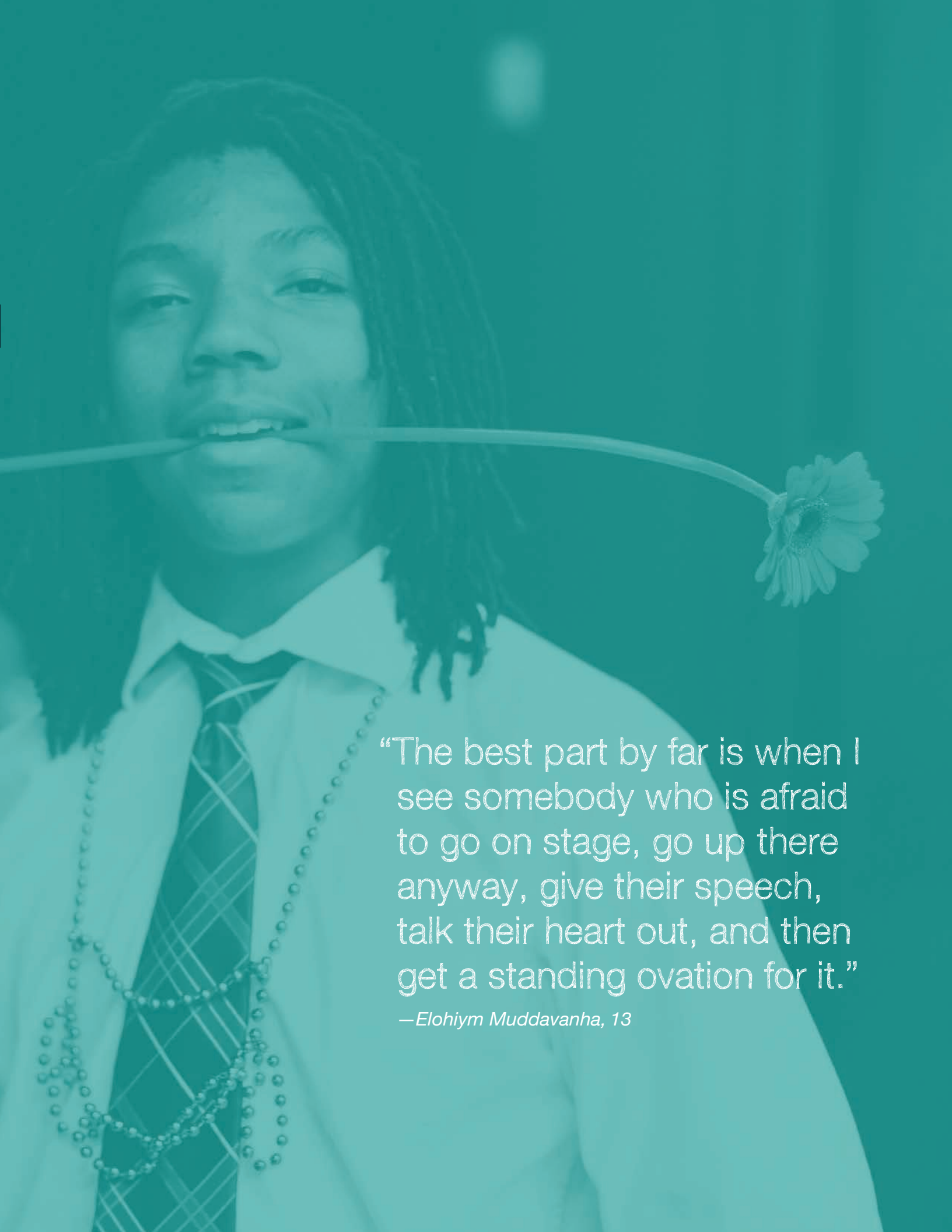
Arthur Guimaraes,
New Board Member and President



Sylvia Sudat, New Board
Member and Secretary



Ione Bell
New Board Member



“The best part by far is when I see somebody who is afraid to go on stage, go up there anyway, give their speech, talk their heart out, and then get a standing ovation for it.”

—*Elohiym Muddavanha, 13*

The background is a solid teal color. Overlaid on this are numerous dashed white lines that form various geometric shapes, including rectangles, circles, and triangles. Some of these shapes are nested or overlapping, creating a complex, abstract pattern. The lines are of a medium thickness and are evenly spaced.

the practice space

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